

REMARKS

Regarding Sections 2-5 of the application, it is believed that all reference numerals in the drawings are present in the specification, and vice-versa. As for the title of the invention, please note that the current title is believed appropriate: the invention is indeed a centrifuge, and no other apt title comes to mind. Kindly reconsider the objection, and if it is maintained, please provide a recommended or suggested title for consideration.

Regarding the claims, two claims (9 and 14) have been canceled, no new claims have been added, and independent claims 1, 10, and 15 have been amended to leave claims 1-8, 10-13, and 15-17 in the application. Independent claims 1, 10, and 15 have been amended to incorporate a feature noted in now-cancelled claims 9 and 14, and in the specification, e.g., at page 5 lines 10-11 ("Around each bobbin 16 there is wound a tubing (not shown) through which liquid analyte is passed for centrifuging"); also page 7 lines 1-3 ("In use, both embodiments described above cause rotation of the bobbins 16, 116 around the drum 22, 122 and rotor 14, 114, which creates the centrifugal effect in the tubing (not shown) wound around each bobbin 16, 116.").

The amended claims are believed to be allowable because the recited passages are not shown in the art of record, nor are they suggested. Looking to U.S. Patent 4,711,402 to *Drager*, a series of intermeshing grinding rollers/bobbins are shown; however, none of these bear any passages as recited, nor would it be obvious in any way to modify *Drager* to include such passages, since they would serve no useful purpose in assisting the grinding function of the device. In fact, such passages would likely interfere with effective grinding, which further indicates that one of ordinary skill would not modify *Drager* in this manner (see MPEP 2143.01, subsection entitled "The Proposed Modification Cannot Render The Prior Art Unsatisfactory For Its Intended Purpose").

Looking then to SU 1242241 and 1373451, these also do not teach the recited passages, nor would it be obvious to add such passages to their devices. The devices depicted in these patents, which are basically dewaterers/separators, depict a number of rotating drums orbiting a central supply hub, with the drums receiving matter to be dewatered (e.g., a slurry). The orbiting drums do not include any sort of passages orbiting/encircling their axes, and instead they have

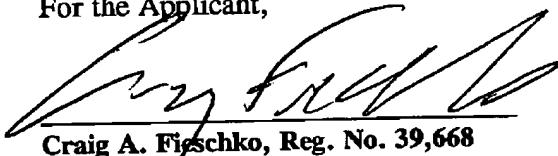
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essentially empty interior chambers (with SU 1242241 having in essence an empty chamber partitioned by screens, and SU 1373451 essentially having an empty chamber with rollers therein). The drums rotate to prevent solids accumulation; note the discussion of regeneration of the filters/screens in SU 1242241, and the discussion of "loosening" of deposits in SU 1373451.

There is no suggestion in the art of record to provide fluid-bearing passages within the drums of SU 1242241 and 1373451; there is simply no apparent benefit to adding such passages. Further, it is submitted that there can be no such suggestion: the SU devices, being intended to separate fluids from solids in slurries and other such thick mixtures, would almost certainly clog any passages if they were included (in contrast to enlarged chambers). The lack of any motivation to include the recited passages is particularly apparent when it is considered that there is no way to provide the regeneration or "loosening" function in any such passages.

In summary, since the recited features are not, as a whole, taught or suggested in the art of record, it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. If any questions regarding the application arise, please contact the undersigned attorney. Telephone calls related to this application are welcomed and encouraged. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments relating to this application to deposit account number 18-2055.

For the Applicant,



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